

**AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING SPECIAL MEETING**  
**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**Members Present:** Liz Massey, Janice Denton, Jeanne Haggerty, Sara Wolff, Hank Peirce, Frank Lattuca,

**Members Absent:** Elsie Fetterman, Al Byam

**Staff Present:** John Clobridge, Nancy Pagano, Barbara Slovin

**Others:** Marge Babb, Ferne Finger

- Sara commended Ferne and Nancy for the comprehensive packets sent to COA members regarding the van.
- Ferne announced that the vendor is sending a sample van on September 29<sup>th</sup>. This van will not be as big as the one we are actually buying and it will not have all the options we are ordering. It will also have mid-high seats instead of the high back ones we want.

**Questions / Answers**

- **Where will the van be parked?** We are presently planning to park the van at the North Amherst Fire Station. Barry is going to help us look for a sheltered location which would be more desirable.
- **What will the signage on the van say?** The transportation committee will decide this and the actual work will be done by Al Byam's folks at UMass Transit.
- **Will the fabric seats be difficult to clean?** The seats will be Scotchguarded and replacement covers can be purchased if necessary.
- **Who will maintain the van?** Nancy will work with Al to set up a schedule. Who will actually do the work has not been figured out yet. Perhaps we can get help on this from Public Works and/or Paul Lawler, head of School Dept. Maintenance.
- **How will the van be used?** The SeniorTravel Club will use this van for mid-sized group trips; other uses will be discussed by the transportation committee and might include trips to special seminars, VIP outings, fitness centers, and more.
- **Who will drive the van and does the driver need a special license?** A special license is required. Nancy and Barry will be taking classes through UMass Transit. Nancy will sometimes hire qualified drivers and she will try to find retired drivers to volunteer their time.

**Funding Discussion**

The Council on Aging VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to commit to funding the cost of van options through fundraising and the use of Senior Trust monies.

- Janice Denton has volunteered to serve on the funding committee. She suggests that community benefactors might like the idea of "buying a seat" on the van.
- Marge Babb thinks that maybe once the van is in use people will be inclined to donate money.
- Liz thinks seniors should participate in fundraising. Nancy pointed out that much of the Trust money has been given by seniors earmarked for transportation and also that the Senior Travel Club is giving \$1,000 toward the van.

**Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano**